

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO.1996-318-C - ORDER NO. 2001-163

FEBRUARY 22, 2001

IN RE: Establishment of Fund to Address Revenue)	ORDER
Impact of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers)	CONSOLIDATING
Electing to Reduce Toll Switched Access)	HEARING AND
Rates.)	REVISING PREFILING
)	DATES

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the proposal of the Consumer Advocate for the State of South Carolina (the Consumer Advocate) for consolidation of all hearings on remand in the Interim LEC Fund proceeding. The Consumer Advocate's reasoning is that since testimony from the local exchange carriers (LECs) will be similar to that already prefiled by Alltel in this Docket, it is not necessary to schedule separate hearings for each LEC in this remand proceeding, and that all of the hearings may be consolidated for hearing purposes on a single day(s). The February 16, 2001, Alltel hearing has been administratively postponed. The local exchange carriers do not object to this proposal, as long as the hearings are scheduled as expeditiously as possible.

Accordingly, we hereby approve the consolidation of all hearings in this Interim-LEC Fund Remand. Further, we suspend all hearing dates and prefiling dates previously ordered by us in this Docket, and also order the following revised dates. The hearing shall be held on **April 2, 2001 at 10:00 AM**. Revised prefiling dates for all testimony and exhibits are as follows.


Prefiled testimony and exhibits from all participating ILEC's (other than AllTel) shall be filed with the Commission and served on the parties on or before **February 26, 2001**. Prefiled testimony and exhibits from the Commission Staff and/or all other parties shall be filed with the Commission and served on the parties on or before **March 12, 2001**. (These materials may be mailed on the date indicated.) Rebuttal testimony and exhibits shall be filed with the Commission and served on the parties on or before **March 26, 2001**. Surrebuttal testimony and exhibits shall be filed with the Commission and served on the parties on or before **March 28, 2001**. (These materials must be in the offices of the Commission and in the hands of the parties on the dates indicated.) The acceptance of surrebuttal testimony and exhibits is at the discretion of the Commission. The Commission reserves the right to exclude the testimony and exhibits of any witness who is not present at the hearing at the call of the Chairman.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)